

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8946

S E C R E T AMMAN 4515

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, IR, MO

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN NEED FOR F-5A'S AGAINST IRAQI AIR THREAT

1. FOLLOWING MY DISCUSSIONS WITH KING HUSSEIN ON JORDAN AIR DEFENSE, KING SAID HE WISHED ME TO REPORT THAT JORDAN HAS RECEIVED SENSITIVE INFORMATION THAT IRAQIS HAVE TARGETTED 10 DIFFERENT SITES IN JORDAN FOR AIR ATTACK IN CASE THE UNSTABLE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE AREA (PRESUMABLY RELATING TO THE CURRENT LEBANESE SITUATION) SHOULD BRING ABOUT AN INTER-ARAB CONFLICT.

2. I WAS CAREFUL TO PROBE FURTHER ON THIS POINT AND CLARIFIED WITH HIM THAT KING WAS RAISING THIS POINT MORE TO ILLUSTRATE JORDAN'S URGENT NEED FOR AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM RATHER THAN INDICATING THAT HE HAD ANY INFORMATION THAT IRAQIS WERE CONTEMPLATING AN IMMINENT ATTACK ON JORDAN.

3. KING HUSSEIN THEN SAID THAT, IN THIS CONNECTION HE WOULD BE TELLING MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR (WHO WAS WAITING OUTSIDE TO SEE KING) THAT, UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, JORDAN WAS NOT RPT NOT IN A POSITION TO TRANSFER THE 20 F-5A'S TO MOROCCO THAT JORDAN HAD PREVIOUSLY UNDER CONSIDERATION.

4. COMMENT: WHILE KING DID SHOW GENUINE CONCERN OVER THE INTELLIGENCE CONCERNING IRAQI BATTLE PLAN, THIS INFO DOES PROVIDE KING A CONVENIENT WAY TO TURN
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DOWN THE MOROCCANS ON THE F-5A TRANSFER, SINCE KING HAS

BEEN LOOKING FOR A PRETEXT FOR DOING SO FOR SOME WEEKS NOW.

5. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT PASS TO DIA, RABAT, TEHRAN AND
BAGHDAD.
SUDDARTH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DIA, RABAT, TEHRAN, BAGHDAD.

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NNN

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